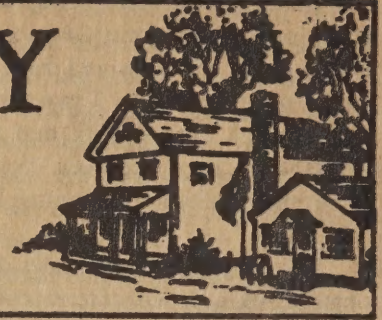


MONTEREY NEWS

March 1999
VOLUME XXIX · Number 3



Along Gould Road.

THE TOWN

Health Inspector chosen to receive award. On January 25 the Monterey Board of Health nominated Peter Kolodziej of the Tri-Town Health Department for the MAHB Public Service Award. The Select Board received word this week that Peter was selected to receive the award at the MAHB Recognition Day ceremony on March 11, 1999, at the State House. The award is given "...to boards of health or individual members of those boards who have made outstanding contributions to their community."

In their letter of nomination the Select Board hailed Peter Kolodziej as "a singular leader of public health policy in Southern Berkshire County." He is responsible for initiating food service certification training, and a certification course for septic installers. They went on to note that even while "supervising the Boards of Health in Stockbridge, Lenox, and Lee, he has always found time to give the Town of Monterey the professional attention the Board of Health demands of its agent."

We congratulate Mr. Kolodziej and thank him for his years of wonderful service to our community and the others in his district.

Miscellaneous news and notes. Don Amstead reports that the rumble strips installed on Route 57 at the Route 23 intersection have reduced the need to replace road signs there. He has not had to replace a sign in two months; he had been doing so almost weekly before the installation.

A meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1, between the Select Board, architect David Bixby, and representatives from the state to gather informa-

tion about why Monterey was turned down for the Community Development Block Grant which would have provided funds to remodel Town Hall for handicapped accessibility and additional space for employees. We will report the results of this meeting in the April issue.

The Town Survey is under development. All those with interests or concerns are encouraged to come to the Select Board on Monday, March 1, or give the Board written comments. Only a few people responded to the call for feedback at the February 2 meeting. The Select Board believes it will take some time to revise the document, but encourage timely feedback.

The Town relinquished the right of first refusal on land off Route 23 east of Sandisfield Road which is being taken out of Chapter 61A by the Hoogs.

The Select Board reports that the most recent electric bills received since the town enrolled in the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) show considerable savings.

I Love Monterey Day. The last I Love Monterey Day of the century will take place on July 17, 1999. This year the committee decided on a homestead theme. Several events will involve historical and homesteading activities, as

will the afternoon parade. The tentative schedule includes: a basketball tournament organized by Jay Amidon and the Parks Dept.; a sand castle contest on the town beach by the Parks Dept.; a library book sale; a hike/work detail on Bonner McAllester's new Brewer Pond nature trail; a workshop at the Bidwell House entitled "The Homestead Garden;" a walk along the Konkapot with Bob Rausch; a festive parade organized by Ellen Pearson on the homestead theme, with all the town's horses and floats, culminating around 3:30.

Also being planned is a picnic with food for sale by Gould Farm, and open mike musical jam at the pavilion and gazebo behind the firehouse coordinated by Karl Finger. There may be carriage rides after the parade. You may see a performance by the Gould Farm Players during the dinner hour. There will be a silent auction to support this and future I Love Monterey Days, as well as souvenirs on sale during this late afternoon gathering. Food will be served until 7 or 7:30 p.m., and a dance will follow, mingling

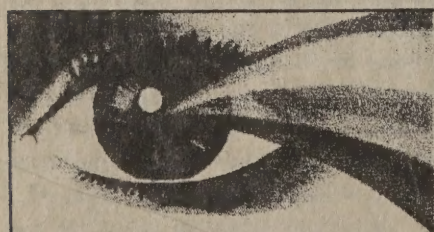
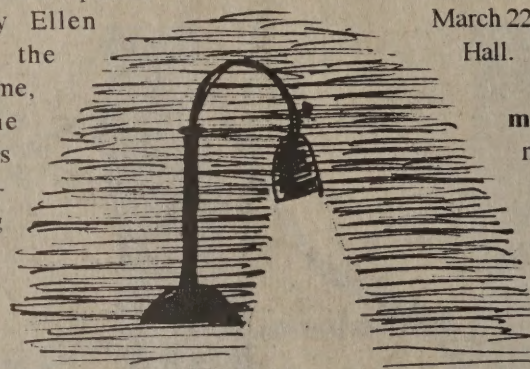
contra, squares, and rounds, folk and swing dancing—a little something for everyone. Awards for the basketball tournament and sand castle building will be given out at the picnic and we are sure a good time will be had by all.

If you want to help, have ideas, suggestions, or comments on the day's events, please contact Amy Goldfarb at 528-2633 or -2132, or attend the next committee meeting on Monday, March 22, 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

School assessment update. At a meeting on February 25 between representatives from the five towns and mediator David Burbank, an agreement on the school assess-

ment distribution was finally signed. Monterey's share (9.099% of the total operating budget for each of the next three years) remains unchanged, as does that of Egremont (14.564%). Alford, New Marlborough, and Sheffield assessments were adjusted to the satisfaction of all. Towns will be holding special meetings so that residents may vote on this new assessment in the near future.

— Amy B. Goldfarb



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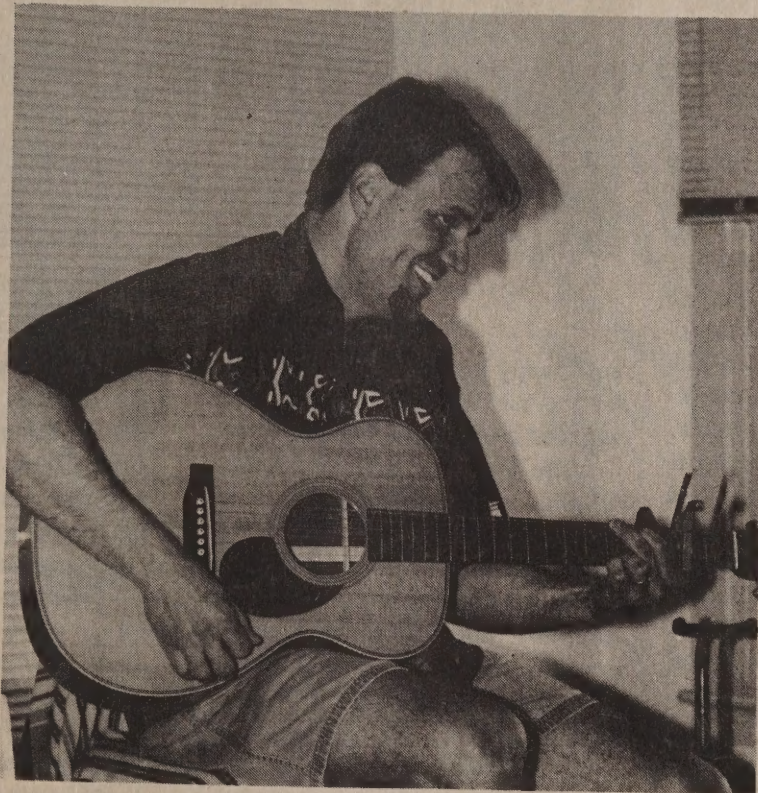
LETTER FROM BALTIMORE

Around midnight on Monday, February 8, I received a call from Trooper Johnston of the Pennsylvania State Police informing me that my husband, John Humphrey, had been in a serious auto accident. Trooper Johnston gave me the phone number of the trauma center where John had been taken by helicopter. I immediately called the hospital and learned that John was in serious condition in the shock/trauma unit of the intensive care unit, and while the doctor spoke I carefully recorded his long list of injuries.

That was eleven days ago. Since then John has received state-of-the-art medical care at one of the finest shock/trauma centers in the world, without which he would not have survived. This is only one of the many things that John has had in his favor. In addition he received emergency medical care quickly, he is very physically fit, and has a loving family. Colleen, one of the nurses in intensive care, pointed to all these factors as reasons to be optimistic about John's recovery. However, neither Colleen nor the doctors who are helping John could possibly have an inkling of the tremendous wave of love and support that is emanating from a small corner of western Massachusetts. Perhaps Dara Jensen put it most succinctly when she said to me, "Everyone around here is just praying their butts off for John."

And it is working. John makes small improvements every day: his bruises are healing, his broken bones have been set by the orthopedic surgeons and are beginning to knit, and he is starting to show more awareness in his coma by

raising a finger or squeezing my finger (by far one of the most exciting moments of my life). The thought of being in a coma has always been frightening to me, but seeing John with so many injuries, and knowing that he is gaining in awareness, I think that not being fully conscious is the body's wisdom in dealing with severe trauma. On the



John Humphrey

physical level there is nothing that I would want John to be conscious for, and in the non-physical world he is receiving more love and concern than either of us could have ever imagined.

As for me, I feel very optimistic. Of course, I have had some very bad moments, and the extent and implications of John's head injuries continue to be a mystery, but I have also been the recipient of so much love, and strength, and caring from all of you that I cannot help but feel supported. It is as if each concerned person in our town is carrying a piece of this burden and because of this I am able to be so much stronger than I ever thought possible. Many of you have asked, "What can I do? How can I help?" and just by asking and

caring you have already helped. How can I despair when I know that I have an army of loving neighbors at the ready? This knowledge, in combination with the picture that we all have of John as the vibrant and fabulous person that he is, literally carries me through my day, and through situations that otherwise might seem completely daunting. I cannot thank you all enough for this tremendous contribution to our lives.

It's clear that it will take a long time for John to recover. No one seems to know how long nor what can be expected in this process. That is okay, the important things have been established. John is alive, he is receiving the best medical care and improving daily, and we have more love and support than anyone could ever hope for. I love you all and look forward to our return to Monterey.

— Maggie Leonard

In a conversation with Maggie just before we went to press we heard the best news to date on John's condition. He has emerged from the coma. On February 25 he

opened both eyes and followed movement for the first time. He also responded to several simple commands in succession: he wiggled a finger, squeezed Maggie's finger, and indicated recognition of people in the room by name. He blinks in response to sudden movement close to his face, and is coughing due to pneumonia that has developed recently. (Nothing good about pneumonia, but it is not uncommon in such circumstances, and the coughing is quite positive for someone who has been comatose.) John's many injuries continue to mend, and the list of surgeries required is growing shorter. Best of all, Maggie reports a strong feeling that her goodnight kiss on February 25 was returned. — Ed.

CUP 99

In spite of the relentless, unplowable ice in your driveway, and all the times you've slipped trying to get your groceries from your car to your kitchen, it's been a bad year for ice. The same warmed-up rain that washed away the sand you had spread, and zambonied your driveway to a perfect glass has played the devil with Monterey hockey. The few sporadic games played in the Tuesday night league have been over divots, slush ruts, and asphalt fissures.

Miraculously, the on-again off-again tenth Monterey Cup was played February 5 on pretty good ice. And it was pretty good hockey. The ironmen were there, Jim Thomas and Rick Andrus, the only players to have played in all ten Cups, but the news was the x-generation players, Corey Jassen and Lincoln Lipsky. With old dogs Thomas and Jed Lipsky playing defense, Lincoln's and Corey's young legs led the defending champ Blue Hill Rangers to first place at the end of the first round. The surprising Blades finished second with staunch defense by father and son teammates Morgan and Daryl Jassen, and the hot sticks of Rick and Mick (Andrus and Burns). The ever-feisty Bounds came in rusty, with Kip Makuc looking jet-lagged after a long drive from Washington, D.C. The Bounds managed to tie the Blades 1-1 in the opener, and then got blown out by Gould Farm and the Rangers. They scuffled for a tie against Otis, a team who just couldn't crank up the usually



© JOHN HUMPHREY

Daryl Jassen (4) and Mick Burns (3) of the Blades head up the ice during the tenth annual Monterey Cup.

goal-happy Ronnie Kearin and the relentless Ray White. Otis couldn't buy a win, and was out after the first round.

The final four were, (1) Rangers, (2) Blades, (3) Gould Farm, and (4) Bounds. After beating Gould Farm 5-3 in the first round, the Blades were confident, but Gould Farm played tough. Rick and Mick looked tired and just couldn't score. It was a defensive struggle with the Jassens and Al McHaffey shutting down dangerous Dave Markwood. But big Doug Baker, playing strong at both ends, managed to get one past your correspondent for a 1-0 win.

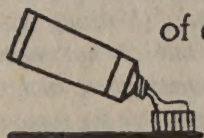
Now it was Bounds vs. Rangers. Now the Bounds were fired. Now Jim Thomas was back on offense for the Rangers, and everyone sensed the winner of this game would win the cup. The key was the Rangers' John Humphrey, always strong in the goal. The game was thrashy with the ice churned up and

the puck bouncing every which way. The Bounds kept the Rangers boxed, and swarmed Thomas with Fennell brothers, but wily Jim got loose to score with one minute left, making it a 1-1 tie and sending it into overtime. With the game in sudden death, the Bounds set up their best player, Kevin Foss, who came down one-on-one with John Humphrey. John came out to his right with a great stop on Kevin's shot but the rebound bounced toward a careening Dave Smith who caught the puck on the tip of his stick and slung a desperate out-of-control shot into the Rangers' net for an upset win. Now the Bounds had a winning momentum and they quickly jumped on Gould Farm in the finals. Kip was back in form in goal, and Bill Fennell and Kevin Foss scored big goals to give the Bounds their third Monterey Cup in ten years.

— Mark Mendel

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THE MEETING HOUSE

A Project Awaiting Completion. Many of you, especially those living in and around Monterey, will have noticed increased activity around the Meeting House renovation. Belfry, windows, doors, ramp, gutters, stairs, all on the outside. On the inside there has been and continues, balcony repair, painting, drainage along basement wall. When the weather is warmer and the frost gone, foundation and drainage work will continue on the west side, by the Tea Room.

All of this activity simply shows that the exterior part of the project will soon be completed. The contractor, Kurt Hoelter of GFI Builders, has indicated that he should be through sometime in May. However, still to begin is the refurbishing of the sanctuary (painting, replacing carpet and pew cushions) and cleaning up the downstairs social room. The kitchen badly needs remodeling and, ideally, a handicapped-accessible bathroom needs to be added. How much of this gets done will depend on how the money holds up! Which is another way of say-

ing that the Meeting House Fund could still use an infusion of gifts.

A Future Awaiting Contemplation. Although there is still much to do, it seems to me it is not too soon to give

community-wide support for this project, it would be appropriate to create a group of interested people to consider how, once again, to make the Meeting House a true "community gathering place." Already several people have indicated their interest and willingness to be part of such a group. How about you? If you are interested, please contact me or Kathy Wasiuk.

On a sadder note, some of you know that John Humphrey has selflessly given his time and expertise to be Project Co-ordinator during the renovation of the Meeting House. On Monday, February 8, John was seriously injured in an auto accident. Since that time, he has been in the Shock/Trauma Unit of the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. I am sure that I am expressing what are all our prayers and hopes for John's complete and speedy recovery. And that his wife Maggie Leonard and all their family be held in our prayers as well.

— Keith Snow, Pastor
Monterey United Church of Christ



Kurt Hoelter and company prepare to install a new sash on the west side of the church.

some thought to a community celebration. In addition, in keeping with the

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ELDERLY TRANSPORTATION

"Exclusive limousine service with chauffeur available for the elderly or handicapped, Thursdays in Monterey." This could be a notice for the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation (SBETC) service, as I learned firsthand this month.

It was 8 a.m. and raining when Don Spadaccini drove up my driveway in the SBETC van, and welcomed me aboard for the special Thursday run to Monterey, Otis, Sandisfield, New Marlborough, and back to Great Barrington. We made two stops in Otis for Ann and Gil, and then headed down to Sandisfield for Cora, Betty, and Marion. In New Marlborough we picked up Olga and made a little detour to deliver a package of frozen Meals on Wheels to a homebound gentleman in Southfield. Although it was almost 9:45 when we arrived to pick up Charlie on Lake Buel, our last passenger to board, the morning had already been a pleasure. Don helped each person on board and welcomed them, as did each rider already seated. The conversation and banter between these travelling companions was friendly, lively, and just plain fun. It made even this long trek an enjoyable part of the day's experience.

Once we were in Great Barrington, Don dropped Gil off at the Price Chopper, took Marion to a doctor's appointment, left three ladies at the Big Y shopping center, and took a prescription to the pharmacy for one of them to be filled. Another passenger was wait-

ing for a lift to the Great Barrington Senior Housing area, and after dropping her off and leaving Charlie at the Senior Center, Don doubled back to town and left the final passenger at the retarded citizens center for a half-day of activities. Then back to the Price Chopper to pick up our shopper and his groceries followed by a stop at the gas station for thirty-seven gallons of gas. He returned to the Senior Center, where Gil and I got off. While I was there learning of the scope of services from Jane Green, the director of the SBETC, the driver left again to pick up the Big Y shoppers with their groceries, the prescription from the pharmacy, and the lady at the doctor's office, and returned to the Senior Center in time for lunch. Don made certain that all of the groceries were marked and refrigerated until the return trip home. When the time comes, he helps carry them into the house, and puts them in the refrigerator, if necessary.

Our busload sat together for a wholesome and laughter-filled lunch of chicken and asparagus with rice, spinach, bread, chocolate pudding, and a beverage.

While everyone was eating, Representative Chris Hodgkins dropped by the center to say hello, and to be available to anyone who had a problem or wanted to talk to him.

At about 12:45 p.m., Don reloaded the van for the now snowy ride home.

For this trip a donation of \$4 is asked of those who can afford it; otherwise it is free.

The SBETC was organized in the 1980s as a non-profit consortium of nine Southern Berkshire towns to help with transportation for the elderly, handicapped, and needy. This consortium includes Alford, Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Sandisfield, and Sheffield. Nearly 700 individuals use the service each year; fifty of these are wheelchair patients. The vans cover over 70,000 miles annually. These people are taken to appointments with doctors and dentists, to the hospital, shopping, adult day-care, the pharmacy, the hairdresser or barber, the laundry, and to the Senior Center for meals and activities.

The annual operating budget is around \$90,000, of which 25% comes from the nine towns, 25% from state grants, 25% from fund-raising, and 25% from donations of riders and the public. The corporation has four vans; the two older vans were provided free of charge by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Elder Services of Berkshire County, while two new vans have been provided by the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority. The SBETC pays for the drivers (two full-time and two part-time), maintenance, gasoline, insurance, and office administration.

Although 75-80% of the SBETC service goes to help people living in Great Barrington and Housatonic, Jane Green says, "If I could fill up the van three times a week in Monterey, I would go out three times a week to Monterey."

If this service could benefit you, please call the SBETC at 528-4773.

— Muriel Lazzarini

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NEW MARLBOROUGH/ MONTEREY SCHOOL NEWS

Again this year students in Mrs. Pottle's class will be participating in the St. Jude Hospital Math-A-Thon. Students ask for pledges, then complete a booklet of approximately 200 math activities. The money raised goes to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Last year over \$600 was raised. While the students have fun testing their math skills, they are also helping other children with life-threatening illnesses.

The hundredth day of school was reached on February 9. This milestone is a cause for celebrating in some unique way each year. This year, because Shared Discovery is focusing on Africa, the day was marked by building a pyramid. Each student and some staff numbered a triangle then placed it so as to make a pyramid of pyramids. Aside from learning about numbers, geometry, and cooperation, the children can truly see how one day of school builds on another.

Mrs. Pottle's class recently held Biography Day. Students choose a biography to read, then on Biography Day they came dressed as that person. JFK shook hands with nephew-in-law Arnold Swartzenegger; Harriet Tubman kept her distance from Robert E. Lee; Annie Sullivan stood by Helen Keller's side. The children put a lot of thought into their costumes, and enjoyed making these special people come alive.

The PTA has some big doings coming up, so mark your calendars. First, March 15-19, they are sponsoring a scholastic book fair at NMC. It's a buy-one-get-one-free deal, so do try to stop in, pick up some reading material, and help out the students. In conjunction with the book fair and the camp fire program, there will be a story hour on March 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The theme is camping—of course! Finally, on March 19, there will be a spaghetti supper at NMC. Servings are 5-8 p.m. Adults, \$5; children 6 and up, \$3; children 5 and under, free. For further information, call Jill Lipsky at 229-3305.

— Deborah Mielke



Biography Day at NMC. Front group, kneeling: Robert E. Lee (Ben Parsons), Dominique Moceanu (Emily Shaw), Helen Keller (Erica Lahert), Harriet Tubman (Devong Gregor), Betsey Ross (Katie Miller), Anne Frank (Ana Rosenberg). Second Row: Louis Pasteur (Thomas Crawford), Amelia Earhart (Rachael Wilkinson), Wilma Rudolph (Kristina Goewey), Arnold Swartzenegger (Nolan Goewey), Joan of Arc (Brooke Marks). Back Row: JFK (Jamie Butkus), Thomas Edison (Chris Provost), Harry Houdini (Ray Duryea), Annie Sullivan (Elaina Strampach), Rosa Parks (Dinah Mielke), Barbara Bush (Jamie Bassett), Princess Diana (Rebecca Childs), Annie Etheridge (Jenny Marcel).

LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION

Everyone is welcome to the meetings of this organization, which is dedicated to maintaining the quality of Lake Garfield. Please mark your calendars now for our Saturday meetings on June 26, July 24, and August 28. All meetings will be held at 10 a.m. in the Monterey firehouse.

We are looking for volunteers for various projects, including: working with the town for long-term lake management; fund-raising for weed control; organizing a summer lake activity, such as a boat excursion.

Please write to P.O. Box 7, Monterey, MA 01245, if you are interested. Checks made out to the Lake Garfield Association may be mailed to the same address. Family memberships are \$20, or you may donate any amount to our weed control project. We need your support!

— Jana Shepard, Vice President
Lake Garfield Association

MONTEREY A LOCAL HISTORY

Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

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I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

There is in some parts of New England a kind of tree... whose juice that weeps out of its incisions, if it be permitted slowly to exhale away the excess moisture, doth congeal into a sweet and saccharine substance, and the like was confirmed to me by the agent of the great and populous colony of Massachusetts.

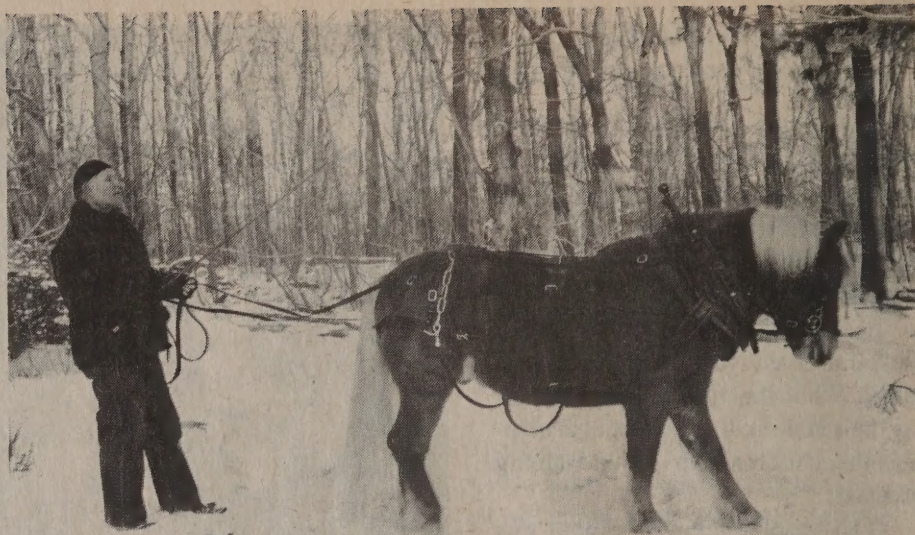
— Robert Boyle, *Philosophical Works*, 1663

Maple sugar and syrup are a specialized North American product. Although types of maple trees are found throughout Japan, China, the Himalayas, and in parts of Europe, the best species for sugar production are found only in North America.

The maple tree needs no tending. It self-sows, needs no cultivating, fertilization or watering. It stands ready for tapping in early spring. And that is when the ease ends and the work of the farmer begins.

Early explorers and missionaries recorded witness of Native American maple sugaring, proving it was a native practice taught to white people. Before metal pots and buckets, Native Americans collected sap with bark buckets, generally fashioned from birch, which were hung below cuts made in the tree. The sap was then collected into wooden troughs. Sometimes the sap was left overnight to freeze, which would remove some of the liquid, thus making boiling time quicker. Heated rocks were placed in the sap to boil it down into syrup, then the syrup was converted to lumps of sugar for easy transportation.

Sugaring began in the early spring, marked by the sighting of the first crow, and was referred to as the sugar month or maple moon. The sugaring period was treated with festivities and celebrations—an extended holiday for all.



© ANITA CARROLL-WELDON

Tom Weldon of The Bidwell House drives Gulliver, the Museum's new Haflinger draft horse. The horse will be used for the historic farming and forest trades programs being presented at the museum.

Native Americans would stay at the sugar camps until the sap became too acid to produce sugar as the weather turned warm. In *Historical Memoirs Relating to the Housatonic Indians*, author Samuel Hopkins refers to a letter written March 1, 1736, by Reverend John Sergeant of Stockbridge, who stayed for six weeks at a Native sugar camp.

When early white settlers took up the practice of sugaring, they added iron kettles, which allowed boiling directly over a fire. Another improvement was using augers to bore holes and inserting home made spiles which

collected the sap with less waste.

In colonial New England where cane sugar was difficult to get and expensive, maple sugar and syrup were valued for being more available. In the late eighteenth through mid-nineteenth century, maple syrup production was encouraged and considered patriotic. It helped to free New England from the support of slave labor used on sugar plantations.

The Bidwell House property has the remains of a sugarhouse located on the eighteenth-century Royal Hemlock Road. The remains consist of a chimney and parts of a stone sugar arch. This

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structure is proof of maple production taking place on the property.

On Saturday, March 20, and Sunday, March 21, The Bidwell House will host an Historic Maple Sugar Demonstration. Thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, the museum will present a historic maple sugaring operation with on-site lecture and demonstration of the evolution of techniques from pre-history through the early nineteenth century. This demonstration will begin at 11 a.m., and is offered free to the public.

Early April is always a hopeful time for the gardener. Thermometers are checked and the ground is tested for signs of the first plantable soil. How did early people deal with the undependable New England spring? Hot Beds! Hot beds are a traditional gardening technique still used today.

On Saturday, April 3, as part of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities grant, The Bidwell House will present Using an Historic Hot Bed. The program will be presented by gardener Tom Weldon, who has been setting up and using hot beds to start seed for a variety of gardens, beginning with the first hot bed he established for the historical gardens at Hancock Shaker Village. Tom will demonstrate the construction of the frame and building of the bed using straw and manure to provide a month's worth of heat to the soil. He will discuss considerations of site and exposure, demonstrate methods of sowing and maintaining a bed. Participants should leave this workshop with enough know-how to start their own hot beds. The nineteenth-century Shaker hot bed will be used as a model for comparison with other historical hot beds. Using an Historic Hot Bed will begin at 1 p.m., and is offered free to the public.

Both these programs will be held at The Bidwell House, Art School Road, Monterey. Please wear appropriate clothing for walking through the woods in mud and snow. Please call 528-6888 for information.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

THE FAMILY NETWORK/ CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

The Family Center is located at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington. Call 528-0721 for information. All activities are at the Family Center unless otherwise noted.

Drop-in times, Great Barrington site: Mondays and Fridays, 12 noon–2 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3–5 p.m.; Thursdays, 10–12 noon. Other times, please call for an appointment.

Otis site (Town Hall, Second Floor): Thursdays, 10 a.m.–12 noon.

Every Monday and Friday, Play and Learn Group for three- and four-year-olds, 9–11 a.m. Pre-registration required, please call.

Every Tuesday, Mother-Baby Exercise Class, 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration required. Childcare provided.

English as a Second Language (ESL), 9:30 a.m. Every Tuesday, Fridays 12 noon–2 p.m. Childcare provided. Please call to register.

Every Wednesday and Thursday, Parent-Child Playgroup at the Family Center in Great Barrington, 9:30–11:30 a.m. Some special events will also be planned on Thursdays.

For playgroup schedule in other sites, and for details of place and time regarding the following workshops, please call the Family Center.

March 1, 8, 15 "What's a Father To Do?" led by Jeff Hine.

March 2 "Positive Discipline Techniques," led by Bob Boylston, MSW.

March 4, 11, 18, 25 Parenting discussion group led by Gretchen Courage.

March 4 "Helping Siblings To Get Along," led by Gretchen Courage.

March 4, 11 Last two training sessions for Parent to Parent Volunteers.

March 9 Preschool open house.

March 12 Parent-Infant drop in.

March 13 Maple syrup day for mothers, fathers, and children at Gould Farm.

March 16 "Working With A Child You Just Don't Like," led by Bob

Boylston, MSW.

March 17 Parents' Advisory Board dinner.

March 20 "Mathematics Can Be Fun—Even For Little Ones," led by Gretchen Courage and Jessica Redman.

March 22 Parents Without Partners meeting, 5:30 p.m. Childcare available.

March 23 and 24 CPR For Infants and Toddlers, two-night course led by Marsha Harvey, EMT.

March 25 Make a Berry Basket with basketmaker Wendy Jensen.

March 27 Community Egg Hunt.

March 29 Starting or continuing your own business? Come see how the Community Development Corporation can help. Led by Keith Gerard.

March 31 Multiple Birth Moms' Night Out.

Children's Health Program, Inc. has four major programs: The Family Network is housed at the Family Center in Great Barrington and eleven playgroup sites; Women, Infants, and Children Program is at 54 Castle Street in Great Barrington, and can help those who qualify with food and formula. Call 413-528-0457 for more information; the Center For Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care is located on the fourth floor of Fairview Hospital. Children to age twenty-one can be seen by the medical practice. Call 413-528-8580 for more information; First Steps, an early intervention program, for birth to three years of age.

We welcome Linda Taylor to our staff as Family Center Coordinator. She replaces Kathleen Davis, who left for personal reasons.

We also welcome Doris Orellana, Coordinator of the Centro De La Familia, Methodist Church, Great Barrington. Doris will work with Spanish speaking families to assist them with services.

We are seeking people interested in being licensed day care providers in the Great Barrington area. We are also seeking people interested in doing evening daycare. Please call Vicky at 413-528-0721.

— Claudette Callahan

SENATOR SAYS

The Community

Preservation Act

12/14/4
Subhead

Across the county, urban sprawl is adversely affecting open space, historic landmarks, and community character. While western Massachusetts does not suffer the extreme, uncontrolled growth of some parts of the western or southern U. S., urban sprawl does threaten to gobble up our natural landscapes and affect the economic viability of our downtowns. Earlier this month, I attended a conference sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency to learn more about the "Smart Growth" movement. The term "Smart Growth" describes a range of new techniques used to revitalize traditional town centers, and to preserve the open countryside and environmental quality in general.

Recognizing that local decision-makers must be given the tools to make good land-use decisions, the EPA will be devoting resources to public education and training for local officials. The agency will also award grants to fund planning efforts, encourage sound development patterns, and promote redevelopment of existing industrial areas. Another EPA initiative would form a partnership of government officials, conservation and development inter-

ests, educational interests, and others. This group will serve as a "board of directors" to share policy, legislative, and technical approaches to planning and development.

Lawmakers in Massachusetts are weighing various approaches which would give local decision-makers more power to guide development. Other legislators and I have introduced a bill known as the Community Preservation Act. I am lead sponsor of the bill, and will be working to secure its passage in this term. The Community Preservation bill would give communities across Massachusetts the option of creating a dedicated funding source for the preservation of open space, historic structures and landscapes, and affordable housing. If adopted, the bill would allow voters on the local level to approve one of three funding mechanisms: (1) an assessment of up to one percent (1%) on all real estate transfers, (2) a surcharge on property taxes of up to three percent (3%), or (3) a combination of both funding sources at lesser amounts (up to one-half of one percent real estate transfer fee, and up to one and one-half percent

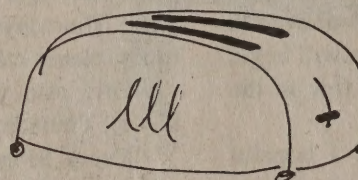
property tax surcharge). A Community Preservation Committee that represents diverse interests would be charged with developing a Community Preservation Plan that includes all goals for open space acquisition, historic preservation, and creation of affordable housing. Each municipality would also have the op-

tion of addressing brownfield and septic system problems with the funds generated. In addition to these three areas of focus, the Community Preservation Plan would require a locally ap-

pointed board to draw up plans for the expenditure of land bank funds, subject to approval by the local legislative body.

I am interested in receiving feedback on whether this bill would make a difference in the communities of the Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin district. As always, I am interested in hearing about how I can help citizens and local officials to protect the scenic beauty and sense of community of the western Massachusetts landscape. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you have any questions.

— Senator Andrea Nuciforo, Jr.



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REPRAP

Changes in Auto Insurance

Here we go again. Just when you think we are moving two steps forward, we take a giant step backwards. Of course, I am talking about auto insurance rates in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The year began well when the Division of Insurance overturned the request by the state's auto insurance companies for a 15.5% increase in auto insurance rates. Instead, the Division issued only a 0.7% increase in policyholder rates. On top of that, the Division slapped a \$3 million dollar sanction against the insurers due to the AIB's (Automobile Insurers Bureau) incomplete compliance with a discovery order concerning the expenses portion of the case. Furthermore, the final order also included a reduction of \$7 million in personal injury coverage and basic property damage as a result of the

industry's failure to show adequate cost containment efforts by the insurers. In addition, consumers this year will receive the remaining twenty percent of a credit that has been spread out over the last three years. This credit was issued

a drastic measure was taken by the insurers last week to recoup the losses they have brought upon themselves. A majority of the major auto insurance companies have slashed their Safe Driver Insurance Plan credits by five

percent or greater. Drivers who are rated Step 9 or Step 10 are eligible for a credit on their policy due to their good driving record. Now those consumers, who compose over 70% of the driving population in Massachusetts, may be in for a big change when they get their new policies. In order to make up for poor business practices, insurers are taking it out on the drivers who least deserve it, the good drivers.

I have written a letter to Linda Ruthardt, the Commissioner of the Division of Insurance,

with several of my colleagues to express outrage at this tactic, and to urge her to take action. The consumer gains intended by the policy decisions of the Division and the Legislature should not be so easily reversed by the auto insurance industry. I have also spoken to the counsel of the House of Representatives to investigate filing legislation to curb this type of activity. The important consumer victories of the last year, most importantly the Consumer Merchant and Protections which require regular inspection to insure scanner accuracy, should propel our continued advocacy for fairness.

As always if you should have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my full-time district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins



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The vegetable stand at Tall Pine Farm.

to compensate drivers who were being overcharged by the industry for the years 1992-1996 due to miscalculations in expenses.

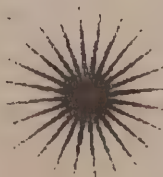
This all sounds very promising, but

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LITTLE EINSTEIN AND OLD LEAR ON THE STAGE OF DREAMS

*little Einstein observes the train
from his speeding car
standing still
Improvisation and Genius
jam on
the Stage of Dreams
we eat as much as we can
then begin
a new song
yet this Great Family
is full
of fallen angels
and one so dear
dons the mask
of The Donkey:
Death rows
his gondola
through venous canals
to the church
of old Lear
while cancer crawls the altar
three copper tails
fall upon
this sad city sidewalk
trigram of the Receptive
wide armed
eyes skyward:
"Medico de la Peste
purifica San Marco!
quarisci Sant' Alberto!"
Shall we let old Lear
write
this final atmosphere?
or follow little Einstein
in his light machine
to the sun?*

— R. Zukowski

PRAYER TO THE DEEP

(for J. H.) - 4/21/12

*cold, I pass the crescent moon
and think of you in your bed,
not in your body, not in your head
how the road can skew so soon

how fickle flies the winter wind—
how right we were to sing and dance
so close, so young, such romance,
oblivious to the dance's end

Johnny Boy, the stars persist
for now at least, but alas:
even dust arose from nothingness
(but I knew you when... I insist!)

the crescent grows a silvery coin
and wanes again to poverty
these folded hands, though dirty
entreat the dance

and you
rejoin*

— R. Zukowski

BLUE MOON IN WINTER

*Tonight the moon is a priestess
Watching with contempt
As I, the heretic, stumble
Through her frigid temple.
Trees frozen, black,
Limbs raised in supplication
Dark rock huddled in the snow.
I am pressed by the sense
Of a hidden congregation
That watches, barely tolerates,
This intrusion of snot and flesh
My gross, dense severance
Of a serene reverie*

*The silence I feel
Is of a trance broken
A ritual disturbed,
A chant cut by my passage.
My warmth, my breath,
Mark my presence, my weakness.
In this sharp cold hush
My skin stretches thin,
One swift movement
One claw, one fang,
And my blood
Would burst from this fragile shell
Pulse red once, perhaps twice
Then clot, stiffen, freeze.
A bloom of sacrifice
To a patient hunger
That waits for me
To fall or flee.*

— Nick Hardcastle

STONEMASON

*A chalk line lives for a chisel to find,
and powders out
like scattered moonlight on the sound.*

*I live where my stones touch,
eye pushing hand
through time's haul.*

*Turning the tumblers of time,
rock fitted against rock,
secret matching secret in the lock.*

*Each stone awake
in the wet mortar.
The slightest tap can plumb the world.*

*Scribe. Score. Split. Set.
with the last heave of day,
the sun trowels my shadow into this wall.*

— Mark Mendel

CHIAPAS ON MY MIND

As I write, it is mid-February, and we are out in the woods drilling holes in the sugar maples. People ask us how many trees we tap and we don't even know, though we hang about a hundred buckets and put maybe three hundred taps on tubing. Sometimes people ask us how many maple trees we own, and there we are certainly stymied. How do you own a tree? We do not own all the trees we tap, though some of them are on land which has special significance for us based more on ancestral story than on taxes.

Legend has it that this part of Monterey where we live, this land where we built our log house twenty years ago, was "bought" from the Indians for seven beaver hats. I say "bought," but many would say it was stolen. Others would say it was a complete non-deal since the Indians did not have the same concepts of ownership and sale that my white ancestors had. My ancestors were first farmers and then one-way real estate dealers, which led them to sell and sell, for what now looks like beaver hats again, when you compare it to modern land values.

Without spending a nickel, we wound up with some of the stolen land my white ancestors didn't sell, and often we encounter old tap-holes in the sugar maples. We imagine Dad Keyes in the upper pasture with the same hand-cranked brace we still use. We wonder if sugaring was a pleasure for him, or if it was just one more hard-work chore on the farm.

Two years ago sugaring was more chore than pleasure for me. Joe was too busy with a new job to help out much, and I got the flu for the first time in my life. So last year when mid-February rolled around and I didn't have any wood put up, I said to the kids, "Let's go to Mexico instead."

We have been studying Spanish

because it is the language of some of our neighbors to the south, also because it sounds sweet and is a pleasure to pronounce. We went to Mexico to meet some southern neighbors, to listen to them speak their language, to learn something of their lives, and to get away from our maple trees in February. Last year we arrived in Veracruz about two months after a government-backed paramilitary group massacred forty-five

rights, since there have been so many violations there. Americans from the United States, aware of the use of U. S. equipment and military expertise against native people, go to Chiapas to offer support to local communities.

Chiapas is home to three million people, including the highest concentration of indigenous (Indian) citizens in Mexico. Although there is great wealth in natural resources, half the state has no electricity or running water, and the illiteracy and infant mortality rates are the highest in Mexico.

In January 1994 the people said, "Ya basta! (Enough is enough!)" demanding work, land, food, housing, education, independence, freedom, democracy, justice, and peace. Since then, they have added political autonomy, social and economic self determination, and local control of resources. The Lacandona Rainforest covers 13% of the state and supports 43,000 different species of plants, as well as a great diversity of animals, including the Zapatista Army of National Liberation. Famous ancient archaeological sites show that Mayan people supported themselves here for twenty-five centuries, in a system of shared land use.

Today, the land-use reforms for which Emiliano Zapata and others fought and died in 1910, the guarantee of communal land for indigenous people, have been amended to make the Mexican property laws like those of the U. S. and Canada, for purposes of NAFTA. The U. S. and Canada do not have constitutional provisions for communal land for native people, and now neither does Mexico. The Zapatistas want this back, and people all over the world think they should have it.

Here in Monterey most of the trees we tap stand along Hupi Road. We think of them as town trees because they occupy that strip of land which is twenty-five feet from the center of the road, which technically does belong to



*Monterey and Chiapas: closer than you think
(the land is the link).*

people in Acteal, which is in the neighboring state of Chiapas. People we spoke to were worried about increased military presence in Chiapas in Zapatista communities.

Who are these Zapatistas and what do they have to do with Emiliano Zapata, revolutionary leader and hero of ninety years ago? Ever since they declared war on the Mexican government in January, 1994, this grassroots guerrilla army, consisting mostly of indigenous men and women of Chiapas, has received sympathy and support from all over the world. Thousands of people from all parts of Mexico have travelled to Zapatista country to take part in the National Democratic Convention, and to show support. Local communities send aid to Chiapas in the form of food and clothing; we saw collection boxes and signs during our visit last year. Foreigners have maintained a presence in Chiapas, as witnesses for human

the town. Most of the abutters do not see it this way, and consider the maples to be their trees, and of course they are right in a sense, because we are all part of this town. If things ever got tough here, I could take a lesson from my ancestors, and sell. I am thinking I could sell off some of my town trees for a bunch of beaver hats, but I would want to keep on tapping them for syrup because in New England that is what you do in February and March, if you see a sugar maple. I realize this could be construed as a revolutionary act, by some, which is why I am working hard on my Spanish. I might need some help from the Zapatista Army one of these days.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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WILDLIFE SURVEY

While your surveyor had a week in San Francisco, a glacier, wide and thin, was laid down all over the Berkshires. We came back from vineyards and violet blossoms, and found that driveways had become skating rinks. The warm weather which brought the freezing rain turned cold and transformed the slush into iron for the next four weeks! A little snow came and went, but the glacial undercoat remained unmoved. Then came the early February thaw, and some rain, and changes set in. Edges blunted, bare ground appeared on the south slopes, and the buckets and tubing for maple sugaring began to appear on the trees. As sure as Solstice, something is happening.

On Jan. 29 at 10 a.m., a tufted titmouse gave a limpid eo-eo-eo! outside the kitchen window. On Feb. 14-15, Joe Baker, doing a census for the Audubon Society, reporting maximum numbers seen at any one time, saw the following congregations: forty-four mourning doves, forty-one goldfinches, and twenty-one juncos! Somebody saw a bear out in the first week of February. Some skunks, their hormones rioting, forgot themselves and discharged scent under a house right in the center of Monterey. They don't like the smell any more than we do.

On Jan. 25, a great blue heron was prospecting the swampy area around the beaver pond on Route 23 east of Great Barrington. He spread those great

wings and glided over for a closer look at my car. Then he went back to hunting through the tall grass. Maybe he was after meadow mice venturing out for a drink. Keith Snow saw thirty-two turkeys near the parsonage Jan. 19, while other watchers were saying, "Where are the turkeys?" Dale Duryea saw a coyote confronting his dog right outside the house, Jan. 28, and ran out to the rescue. Something is happening: Roger Tryon found that squirrels have been after the sweet residue inside some of the plastic tubes he uses for sugaring, much to the detriment of the tubes. This is something of a first in squirrel lore.

Dale Duryea has seen, or had reported to him: geese on the Housatonic near the restored covered bridge, hawks over his meadow, a red fox in the backyard headed toward Route 23, otters in the Konkapot.

Smoke is billowing up from the brush-heaps, carefully saved for this safe time of year. There is nothing quite like it when that ungainly heap of miscellaneous fuel begins to generate serious fire and develop a bed of incandescent coals too hot to look at. It doesn't blink at a hemlock branch covered with ice. There is a rush of steam, the crackle of thousands of needles all exploding at once, and a swirl of flaming smoke, high into the air.

As we get into late winter, the sun is all about us: on the increasing number of warm days, the lengthening days as both sunrises and sunsets push farther north and the sun rises higher into the sky, and the sun bursting out to dry stovewood in the house and frozen brushwood in the forest.

— David P. McAllester



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Treasures From Both Sides of the Ward Family

Ray and Mary Ward are great-grandparents, and our conversation shuttled back and forth between family and fibers. Finally it became a tapestry woven of the best of both topics.

"My father's work responsibilities included checking on the sanitary conditions of commercial dairies in Vermont," Ray said. "My mother used to go with him when he traveled. Her crocheting kept her busy while waiting in the car for my father to finish his work."

She must have spent a lot of time waiting. To make the bedspread the Wards showed me, Ray's mother needed time to crochet hundreds of hexagons out of ecru cotton.

"It's beautiful, but when she put all the pieces together..." A meaningful glance stole between them.

"It's heavy," Ray and Mary said, in unison.

"Of course, it's a bedcover meant for daytime, not for sleeping under," Mary amended. When laid over a dark coverlet, the pattern of holes in the filet crochet allows the underneath color to show through, and highlight the intricate work.

Each hexagon is about a handspan wide and begins with three rows of single crochet stitch around a central open circle. The pattern then breaks into six arms, each one incorporating an inverted pyramid of regularly spaced

popcorn stitches. The joining stitches between hexagons allow for open chevrons which add to the substantial coverlet's lacy appearance.

Then Mary asked, "Do you want to see my great-grandmother's Sunday-best shawl?" My fiber-arts-delight-alarms—they're connected to my smile muscles—went back on high alert. Once again I wasn't disappointed. Her shawl is a finely woven floral rectangle of sapphire, ruby, several greens, a hint of gold, and a deep, rich brown.

"I don't remember seeing my great-grandmother in it, of course. I think she was born about 1830, and died around

1913," Mary commented. Her eyes sparkled with a special brand of dry wit that passes for simple linear conversation unless one listens carefully.

None of us was sure of the shawl's fabric content. When I took it in my hands, the cloth only spoke in adjec-

tives: fine, substantial, lightweight, natural. No definitive nouns. I wondered aloud how we could find out.

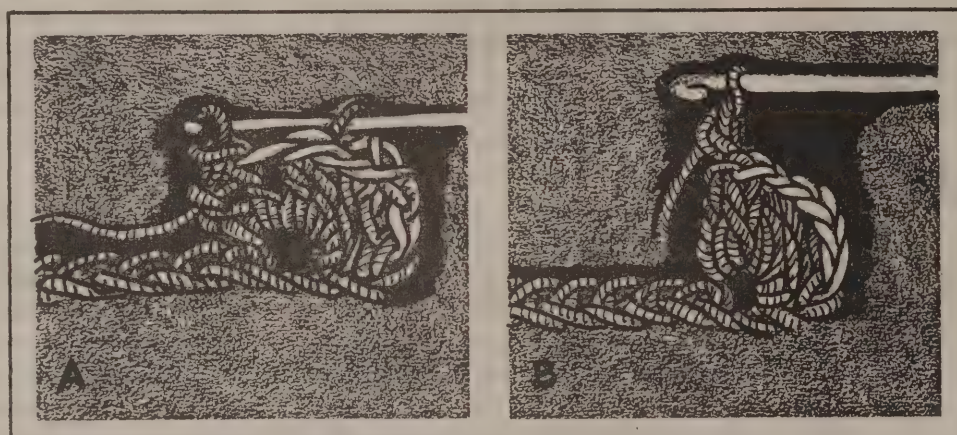
"Oh, burn it," Mary said. My face went blank, and she started to laugh. "No, just burn a little piece of thread from the fringe and see how it smells," she said. "At least that way you can tell if it's wool."

I felt rather young and citified, but joined in as an affirmative nod moved round the circle. Of course, we all knew the smell of scorched wool. "Know the properties of your material" isn't only folk knowledge. Making use of the knowledge is wisdom. We gathered

strands of three different colors of fringe and proceeded with the experiment. When I charred a scrap of wool yarn of more recent vintage, the odor was definitely "burned wool." When we charred the fibers from the shawl, first dry and then damp ones, it might have been wool; then again, maybe not. The only thing proved

conclusively from the odor was that we used kitchen matches. If there's anyone out there willing to help accurately identify the fabric content of this wonderful vintage shawl, drop me a line at the *News*.

— MaryKate Jordan



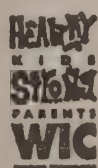
Directions for crocheting the basic popcorn stitch Mrs. Ward used in her coverlet:

A) Work 5 double-crochet stitches in one foundation stitch. Drop the loop from the hook; insert the hook in the first dc of the 5 dc-group.

B.) Pick up the dropped loop and pull it through to complete the stitch.

1913," Mary commented. Her eyes sparkled with a special brand of dry wit that passes for simple linear conversation unless one listens carefully.

None of us was sure of the shawl's fabric content. When I took it in my hands, the cloth only spoke in adjec-



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MONTEREY • BUILT 1861

MONTEREY

PIECEMAKERS' UPDATE

We continue to enjoy the blue and white Bidwell House quilt we have under construction. Happily, our winter travel calendars leave enough of us in town at the same time—round robin style—to get the stitching done.

We're busy, enjoying the snow-

white of our background fabric when the earth is brown or icy. We're even glad for the occasional bad-weather, better-stay-indoors-today day. And our thanks to Dan and Sue at The Pumpkin Patch in Lee, who donated the blue quilting thread we'll be using to keep our stars in place.

— MaryKate Jordan

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GOING TO ROOST
OVER
RAWSON BROOK
LATE WINTER
D B Emma

FIRE IN THE WATER

The last snowfall of winter may mask the face of the woodlands with a whiteness that obscures a clear vision of spring, but it cannot hide the seasonal rite of passage called "ice out" already moving upon our lakes, ponds, and brooks.

The revelation of "ice out" is often subtle, unseen by many until all but complete. Frozen expanses are suddenly transformed as if by waving a magic solar wand, a motion like the shadow of a cloud as it passes overhead on a sunny day, so fleeting as to erase everything in its path, it wipes the slate clean.

Then when a glowing sunset reflects upon the end of Lake Garfield, it might be seen by some of us as a fire in the water, burnished by the torch of Prometheus, perhaps a promise of hope and healing on the horizon of our horizon.

Prometheus was the titan of Greek mythology, so gifted with a prophetic insight into human nature he dared provoke the wrath of the gods in heaven by stealing their fire and handing it down to mortals on earth, knowing it would bring both knowledge and the art to mankind.

An artistic tribute to his creative legacy, a larger than life statue of Prometheus by the sculptor Paul Manship, cast in bronze and covered in gold leaf, adorns the balcony over the Rockefeller Center skating rink in New York City.

An artificial "ice out" is annually celebrated when the rink is melted down

and converted into a tropical garden. The ritual comes alive with a gushing release of vertical fountains that rocket suddenly skyward, fuming like a rush of wind. The firebrand in the hand of Prometheus seems to flare upon a ring of golden sunshine that is embellished with animal symbols of the twelve stations of the zodiac.

If the sun is blocked behind a building, or by a passing cloud, so that its moving shadow, like a wand of the past, wipes away all the skyscrapers, blotting out local history going back to the end of the last ice age, then on the site of bedrock, fault lines and coast lines, instead of the city, there is the Wisconsin Glacier.

Here lies the final resting place of the last point of penetration of a polar cap that had already buried the Berkshires. The geological tombstones of the palisades tower over a re-enactment of the first spring global warming, as tons of ice floes on the Hudson River move to the sea, fed by a melting force that stems from the mountains over the Housatonic, the hills above the Konkapot, and the lowlands of Rawson Brook.

At vernal equinox on March 20, the hours of light and shadow stand still in perfect balance. While the axis of the earth always points to the north star, when the center of the sun comes over the equator, increments on the circle of the zodiac move up one notch, from the symbol Pisces (sign of the fish) to the symbol Aries (sign of the ram). We may hope winter will follow and go out like a lamb.

— George Emmons

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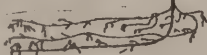
I SAID
MAYBE
AND
THAT'S
FINAL!

Along with his contribution to the News, Donald Amstead, Sr., enclosed his own hand-lettered rendition, reproduced here, of a saying which he saw on a board at a tag sale near his home in Florida.

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our tables ...
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PERSONAL NOTES

Happy Birthday on March 1 to **Arnold Garber**, **Graham Quisenberry** and **Jeremy Vallianos**, on March 5 to **Travis Raab**, on March 7 to **Janet Garber**, on March 8 to **Anne Marie O'Connor**, on March 10 to **Bob Gauthier**, on March 13 to **Valerie Costas** and **Bonner McAllester**, on March 14 to **Barbara Shea**, on March 17 to **Annabel Edelman**, on March 19 to **Bill Thieriot**, on March 23 to **Carol Edelman**, on March 27 to **Alf Pedersen** and **Ellen Pedersen**, on March 29 to **Roma Fore-**

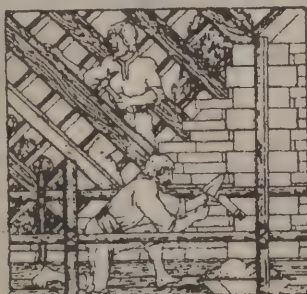
man, and on March 31 to **Barbara Gauthier**, **Diana Lazzarini**, and **Ray Ward**. •

Happy Anniversary on March 9 to **Jerry and Giuliana Raab**, and on March 17, happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone.

Bill and Jeanne Zad sent the *News* a postcard from the Caribbean cruise ship where they enjoyed an early celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary, which is coming up in May. Sounds like they had a wonderful time and better weather than we've endured in the Berkshires of late!

We enjoy hearing your news, and passing on birthday and anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P. O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245, if possible before the twelfth of each month. Thank you so much.

— Ann Higgins.



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Unladylike Bug

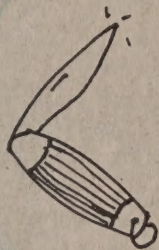
February 19, 1999

To the Editor:

This is just to let your readership know that ladybugs bite. I know I have told more than one person that this is not the case, but I am officially changing my tune, now that I myself have been a victim.

Last night a ladybug dropped off the kitchen light onto my arm. I did not mind until she (or he) began digging at me with teeny mandibles, producing a distinct (painful) sting. In disbelief I got out my handlens and watched the creature rooting (for what??) in my epidermis. Finally I'd had enough and flicked it off. My arm got a little pink and a small round welt rose up. Twenty-four hours later I am still scarred. This may have been one ladybug in a million for all I know. I am amazed. I don't think our good old-fashioned ladybugs (the kind we always used to have, that did not come into the house) bit, but what do I know?

— Bonner McAllester



Cable Query

January 31, 1999

To the Editor:

A phenomenon is occurring that some compare to the industrial revolution. It is the internet. Subscriber growth has doubled and tripled monthly. A good indicator of people's behavior is the stock market. A leading Internet company, Yahoo, has seen its stock price move last year from 33 to over 400 early this year. The net will probably change our lives significantly.

To take advantage of this phenomenon we connect to the net by a wire, a telephone or cable wire that provides bandwidth. As voice, data, and video converge, the capacity of the wire is critical (part of the phenomenon is that demand meets new capacity: expanded pipe is immediately filled).

There is a crucial distinction: cable wire is far better than the telephone wire—by a factor of 50 to 100 times. For many employing conventional telephone access, "www" means "world wide wait" because the bandwidth or pipeline of these lines is limited (despite telco industry rhetoric).

Should Monterey be wired for cable? Would the local cable company wire Monterey? Who would pay for it?

— L. Robert Duffy

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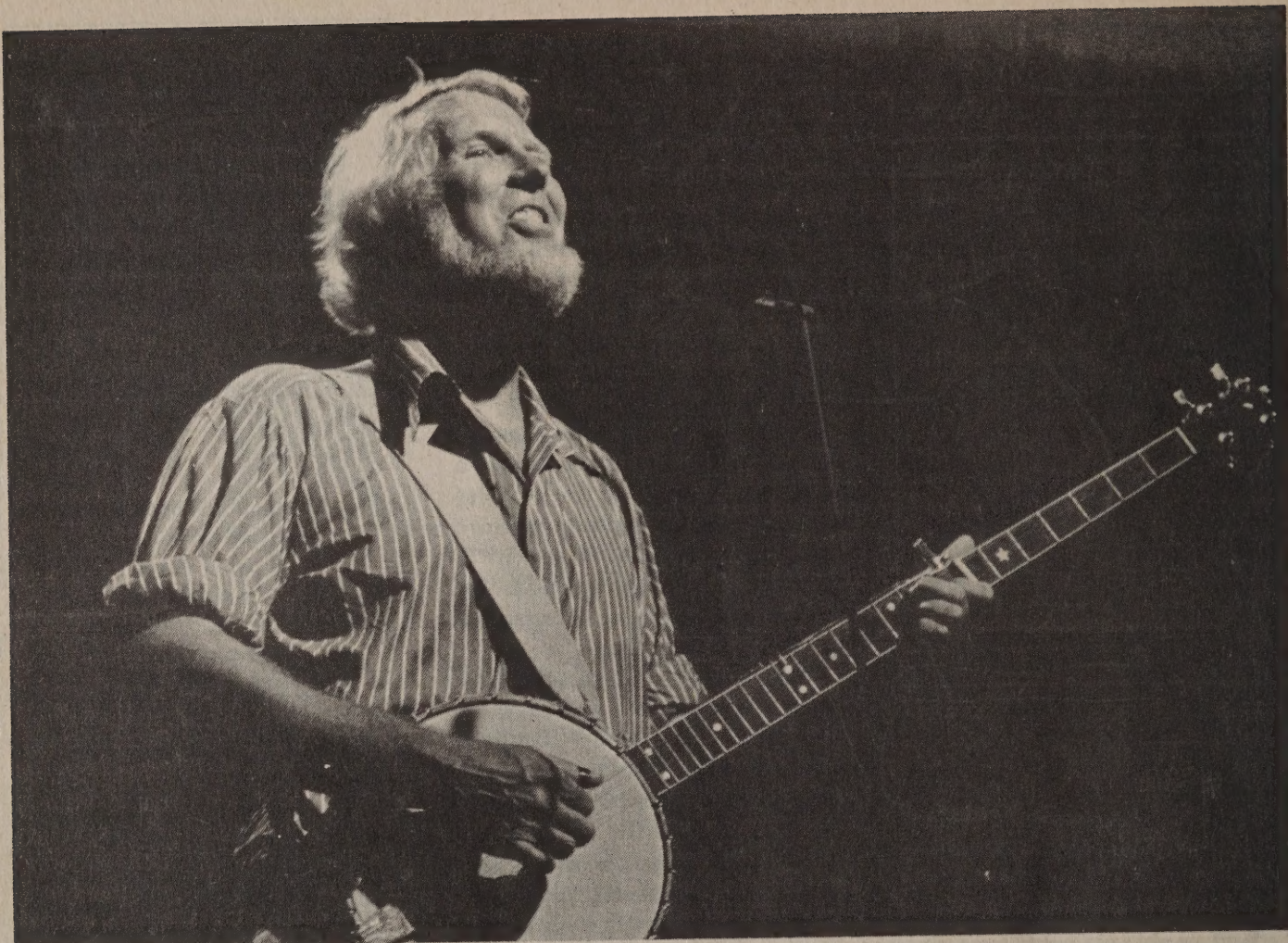
The New York Times

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BILL CROFUT

Bill Crofut, of New Hartford Road in Sandisfield, died at home of cancer on January 25. A longtime Berkshire resident and Monterey neighbor, Bill was also an internationally known musician and supporter of community projects. He was a singer, songwriter,

and performer who shared the stage with musicians all over the world, from Monterey to Vietnam to London to India. Bill gave concerts in more than fifty countries and made more than twenty recordings. His instrument was the banjo. He was sixty-four.

Born in Cleveland in 1934, William E. Crofut was the son of William and Grace Benfield Crofut. He went to

the Putney School in Vermont, and received his B.A. degree from Allegheny (Pennsylvania) College in 1957. The college also awarded him an honorary degree in 1997.

At a memorial service and concert last month, young musicians stepped up to the microphone to tell of the support Bill had given them as they began their careers. Bill had the vision, the generosity, the passion, and the means to make things happen. Music was his greatest love, and he often used it to raise funds for local causes including children's programs, environmental projects, and land preservation. Here in Monterey, Bill played and sang at Rock Ridge to support the Monterey Land Trust.

Besides his wife, the former Susan Plehn of Litchfield, Connecticut, Bill leaves three daughters: Erika Crofut of Canaan, Connecticut; Anni Crofut of Cambridge; Catherine Crofut of Lee; and three grandchildren.

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CALENDAR

Monday, March 15, 10 a.m.-noon, South County La Leche League at the Guthrie Center, Great Barrington. Information, 528-6619.

Tuesday, March 16

International folk, contra, square, and line dance led by Karl Finger at Gould Farm, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Full instruction, all welcome, refreshments. Contribution, \$5 adults/\$2 children. Information, Kim at 528-1804 or Karl at 528-2963.

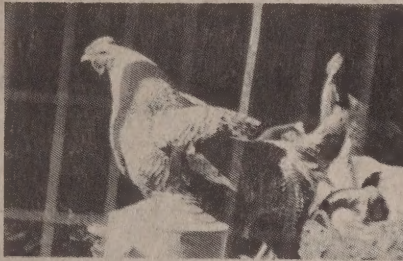
Blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m., administered by the VNA, in the basement of the Town Offices.

Saturday, March 20, and Sunday, March 21 Historic Maple Sugaring Demonstration at The Bidwell House, 11 a.m., free. Information, 528-6888.

Saturday, March 27 Square and contradancing 8:30-11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7 Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Sarah Gregory Smith. All dances are taught and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments

served at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. For information call 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Saturday April 3 Using an Historic Hot Bed. Demonstration at The Bidwell House. 1 p.m., free. Information, 528-6888.



© WAYNE DUNLOP

THE OBSERVER

January 25—February 25

High temp. (2/12) 50.5°
 Low temp. (1/31) -4.4°
 Avg. high temp. 35.0°
 Avg. low temp. 17.9°
 Avg. temp. 26.5°
 High bar. press. (1/31) 30.68"
 Low bar. press. (2/12) 29.61"
 High wind gust (2/10) 43 m.p.h.
 Wind chilled low temp. (2/23) -25.6°
 Total precipitation
 (rain and melted snow) 2.4"
 Snowfall 6.2"



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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on Macintosh disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to

receive the *News* by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We can typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event; ads with graphics must be submitted on a Macintosh-formatted disk. Address the Editor for rates and further information, or telephone us at 413-528-9385. -

Change over#

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Contributions from local artists this month: Bonner McAllester, p. 14; Peter Murkett, pp. 2, 10, 21.

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